



NSW GOVERNMENT

Department of Planning

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Mr Geoff Callar
Manager Asset Management Systems
APA Group
Level 19, HSBC Building
580 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Our ref: S09/00118

Dear Mr Callar

Proposed Wallumbilla to Bulla Park Pipeline, Bourke, Brewarrina and Cobar Local Government Areas (Application Reference: 09_0061)

The Department has received your major project application and request for Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) for the above mentioned proposal.

The Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements are attached, pursuant to section 75F(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. These requirements are based on the information provided to date, including the Planning Focus Meeting held on 7 April 2009 and through consultation with relevant government agencies. Under section 75F(3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided prior to the Proponent seeking approval for the project.

Please contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit the Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

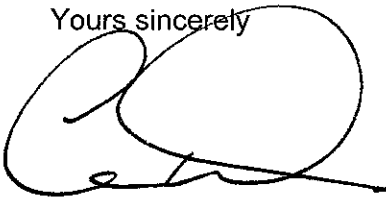
- the fees applicable to the application;
- relevant land owner notification requirements;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply;
- options available in publishing the Environmental Assessment via the Internet; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

Prior to exhibiting the Environmental Assessment, the Department will review the document to determine if it adequately addresses the DGRs. The Department may consult with other relevant government agencies in making this decision. If the Director-General considers that the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address the DGRs, the Director-General may require the Proponent to revise the Environmental Assessment to address the matters notified to the Proponent. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

If your project includes any actions that could have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation and it is your responsibility to contact the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts to determine if an approval under the EPBC Act is required for your project (6274 1111 or <http://www.environment.gov.au>).

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Mr Marek Cholinski, Environmental Planning Officer, Major Infrastructure Assessments on 02 9228 6284 or via email (marek.cholinski@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Wilson', written over a large, faint circular stamp.

30.9.09

Chris Wilson
Executive Director
Major Project Assessments
as delegate of the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Project	Construction and operation of a buried, high pressure gas transmission pipeline from the New South Wales- Queensland border near Weilmoringle to Bulla Park (for connection to the Queensland component of the pipeline connecting to Newstead South Central Queensland). The pipeline project would have an initial capacity of approximately 73 petajoules per annum The project includes: • construction and operation of pigging stations, valve stations and connection points (to other pipelines and facilities); • erection of perimeter security fences, security and signage; • installation of communication equipment and site facilities; • installation of cathodic protection devices; • excavation, drilling and interim spoil storage, replacement, remediation or disposal; • erosion and sedimentation control works; • construction of pipeline corridor access tracks; • river and creek and road crossings; • temporary fencing around work sites and open excavations; • clearing of native vegetation; • transportation of pipes and associated equipment by road or rail and temporary storage sites; • establishment and removal of construction camps; and • provision and disposal of water for pipeline hydrostatic testing.
Site	Land within the following local government areas: Bourke, Brewarrina and Cobar.
Proponent	APA Pipelines (QNSW) Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	30.04.2009
Date of Expiration	30.04.2011
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include: • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including: construction and operation details that clearly define the proposal corridor; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions including the consistency of the project with the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>; • an assessment of the key issues outlined below, during construction, operation and decommissioning (as relevant); • a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project; • a conclusion justifying the project taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project; the suitability of the site; and the public interest; and • certification by the author of the EA that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key Assessment Requirements	The EA must include assessment of the following key issues: • Strategic Planning and Project Justification – the Environmental Assessment must provide a strategic assessment of the project, including justification of the need, scale, scope and location for the project, with particular reference to the existing Australian pipeline network, the location of gas reserves and areas of gas demand and expected demand growth. The Environmental Assessment must include an analysis of the required capacity of the project, having regard to existing gas supplies and the potential for additional known reserves to be connected into the project. • Regulatory Interaction – the Environmental Assessment must include details of the process, timing and coordination of relevant approvals required including other jurisdictions (Queensland and Commonwealth approvals), and how these approval

processes are proposed to be coordinated with approval processes under New South Wales legislation. In this regard, the Environmental Assessment must include indicative timeframes for relevant approvals, and how these timeframes will relate to construction and operation of the project.

The Environmental Assessment must also specifically consider and assess the impacts of the project, if any, on matters of National Environmental Significance under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

- **Land Use Planning Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must assess the potential for the project to generate land use conflicts, particularly with respect to Crown land, mineral reserves, conservation areas such as Gundabooka State Conservation Area and Ledknapper Nature Reserve, land of high agricultural value and areas of significant scenic or visual value;
- **Ecological Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts of the project on native vegetation, threatened species, populations, ecological communities and their habitats for each bioregion (including both terrestrial and aquatic ecology). The Environmental Assessment must:
 - identify bioregions that will be or may be impacted by the project;
 - demonstrate a design philosophy of impact avoidance on ecological values, and in particular, ecological values of high significance;
 - for each identified bioregion, include a screening of species, populations, ecological communities and habitats based on ecological significance and the potential for impact as a consequence of the project;
 - for species, populations, ecological communities and habitats with high ecological significance and significant potential for impact, include sufficient information to demonstrate the likely impacts, consistent with *Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (DEC & DPI, July 2005)
 - for other species, populations, ecological communities and habitats, a general bioregion-based assessment of ecological impacts associated with the project;
 - consider region-based ecological outcomes, including habitat connectivity and distribution of species, and how these may be impacted by the project;
 - detail measures to avoid or mitigate impacts, including any proposed compensatory habitat or off-set strategy, that describes the scale, scope and timing of implementation;
- **Heritage Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include sufficient information to demonstrate the likely impacts on Aboriginal heritage values/items and outline proposed mitigation measures in accordance with the Draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, 2005). The Environmental Assessment must demonstrate effective consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures.
- **Human Amenity Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on human amenity, including noise and vibration, air quality (dust and odour) and traffic impacts during construction and operation of the project. The Environmental Assessment must:
 - identify human receptors that will be or may be impacted by the project;
 - characterise potentially impacted human receptors in terms of receptor type (eg isolated receptors, receptor areas (such as residential zones) and sensitive receptors (such as schools, hospitals etc))
 - identify those receptors and receptor types likely to be significantly impacted by the project;
 - include a framework for the mitigation, management and monitoring of noise and air quality impacts during construction of the project, particularly with respect to receptors and receptor types likely to be significantly impacted by the project and with specific reference to noise- and vibration-intensive construction works/ activities (drilling, blasting, bulk excavation, heavy vehicle movements etc) around receptors and major centres.
- **Socio-Economic Implications** – the Environmental Assessment must assess the

	potential for the project to influence the socio-economic profile of major centres and regions along the project route. The Environmental Assessment, where relevant, must also reflect a design philosophy to support the potential for domestic, commercial and industrial connection to gas supplies in major centres where feasible and appropriate in future. • Hazards and Risk Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of the hazards and risk impacts of the project, prepared generally consistent with the approach outlined in <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6</i> (DoP, 1992) and <i>Multi-level Risk Assessment</i> (DUAP, 1997), and with specific reference to applicable Australian Standards (including AS2885 Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum – Operation and Maintenance). The Environmental Assessment shall specifically consider on-going maintenance and safety management of the project, including potential impacts on and from bushfires and floods. • Surface and Groundwater Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on surface water and groundwater along the length of the project, including any crossing of the Darling River and sources of water for the project. • Infrastructure Impacts - the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on infrastructure, including roads, rail, electricity, gas and water supply infrastructure. Mitigation measures to counter these impacts shall be described. • General Environmental Risk Analysis – notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the Environmental Assessment must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), an outline of the proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, a framework for the consideration of the additional key environmental impact(s) must be included in the Environmental Assessment.
Consultation Requirements	You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment: • Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts • NSW Department of Primary Industries; • Relevant Catchment Management Authorities; • NSW Department of Water and Energy, Country Energy and Transgrid; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and Australian Rail Track Corporation; • NSW Department of Lands, relevant Landcare Groups and relevant Rural Lands Protection Boards; • relevant local aboriginal communities and Local Aboriginal Land Councils; • local councils of Bourke, Brewarrina and Cobar. In addition, appropriate consultation with the local community should be undertaken. The Environmental Assessment must clearly indicate issues raised by stakeholders during consultation, and how those matters have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment.
Deemed refusal period	60 days

